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Nature is neat
Jim Hopkins describes a leaf shape as a part of the Barnum Creek Bioblitz this past weekend, put on by the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust. Hopkins was leading a hike on tree identification. For more photos, see inside this edition. /TIM YANO staff photographer

HE sheds light on STR Dashboard concerns

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

The topic of short term rentals (STRs) has once again been brought to the forefront this time at the Highlands East council table, when the group met for a special meeting on June 17.

Kim Roberts, the junior planner for the township, presented council with information regarding development around the ongoing STR dashboard.

A similar model was launched by Dysart staff on May 12, and was met with mixed emotions from residents. "Council may or may not be aware, there was some opposition from members of the public," said Roberts, noting that the majority of the feedback stemmed around privacy and safety concerns.

The digital tool is designed to showcase

see COUNCIL page 13

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Air quality warnings the new norm for cottage season

ADAM FRISK

Journalist

Air quality warnings will become the new normal for Haliburton County, thanks to forest fires and climate change, according to the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit.

Just days before summer vacation officially begins, Haliburton County has already been warned of poor air quality, with wildfire smoke choking the region.

"There was an air quality health alert at the start of June that resulted from forest fires in the west, from Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta," Bernard Mayer, environmental health manager at HKPR Health Unit, explained to the *Echo* and the *Times* in a June 17 telephone interview. "The smoke from those areas were drifting into our area as well as forest fires in the southeast U.S. that were drifting northwards and both merged onto us."

A large swath of the region was blanketed in smoke during the first week of June, where air quality levels reached moderate to high risk levels. By late evening on June 5, Dorset Station reached a level seven on the Air Quality Health Index, according to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

"As with climate change, we're seeing severe weather and much drier seasons, the lack of rains in the spring that we would normally see out west, the risk of wildfires occurring is more frequent," Mayer said.

As of June 17, there were 24 active forest fires burning in the province, according to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's (MNRF) Aviation Forest Fire and Emergency Services (AFFES). The Haliburton area was at a high fire risk hazard.

The view from Skyline Park of Haliburton Village blanketed in wildfire smoke during an air quality advisory on June 5. /ADAM FRISK staff

"So far there's only been three fires within the Haliburton fire area, with one located in Algonquin Park," said Evan Lizotte, fire information officer. "The 48.7-hectare fire was confirmed out on May 12."

Smoke from these fires can pose a serious health risk. According to Environment And Climate Change Canada, when the air quality health index reaches the seven to 10 range, or moderate to high risk levels, the vulnerable population, including children and elderly, should reduce time spent outdoors. The general public should also reduce time spent outdoors should they begin to experience coughing and or throat irritation.

The HKPR Health Unit also warned of the health risks and advised residents to watch for symptoms.

"Mild symptoms might include itchy eyes, dizziness, wheezing and a runny nose," Mayer explained. "More severe issues would include shortness of breath, which can trigger people with asthma. The most at risk people are those who we consider the vulnerable population. The very young, the elderly and anybody with breathing or heart conditions."

HKPR Health Unit's emergency management health hazard co-ordinator Abby Tabaco also noted that increasing temperatures can also trigger air quality advisories.

"It's not just the smoke from the wildfires but due to the increase of heat events there might be an increase in concentration of ozone and other pollutants at the local level which may trigger local alerts," she said.

Mayer suggested that these air quality alerts will be more frequent and will become par for the course in the summer months.

"It's the result of climate change," he said. "This is going to be normal, but I would also say because Environment Canada has very robust systems in place to better monitor this than say 20 years ago, so there's that aspect, too.

"But the size of the wildfires we are seeing, they are enormous now compared to what they used to be." Bernard said.

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Water Ambassadors tee off for clean water

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

"Everyone here is changing lives for clean water," said Barry Hart, the founder and chair for Water Ambassadors, during their annual golf tournament on June 19.

For over a decade now, Hart and his wife, Heather Alloway, organize the tournament to showcase the harsh realities of contaminated water around the world. Some statistics the event shared are as follows:

- One in four people do not have access to safe drinking water
- 200 million people spend more than 30 minutes every day collecting water
- Half of all schools around the world lack handwashing facilities
- 900 million people lack basic sanitation and still defecate in the open
- Two billion people drink water contaminated with human waste
- Over 800 children around the world die every day from water-related diseases

The statistics were scattered around the Blairhampton Golf Course on blue and white signs during the annual tournament last week, reminding golfers about their reasons for participating. With over 70 engaged participants, each hole on the golf course was themed, with contests and prizes supported by partnering organizations. "We went to all the local merchants to work together," said Hart. "We want people to go back into these local businesses and support them with our prizes."

"This is something a little different than what we've done before," Hart explained. "But we really want to support our local businesses. The community has supported us for years, it's quite humbling."

While the final numbers from the most recent tournament were not in at the time of press, Hart noted that they have made up to $45,000 in the past. The funds raised support trips to developing countries to implement clean drinking water initiatives. "Access to clean water is a human right," says the Water Ambassadors website. "Together we can create a world where everyone has access to clean drinking water and basic sanitation services no matter where they live."

The mother/daughter duo of Linda and Nicole Baumgartner of Baumgartner Realty took to the greens to support access to clean water. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Over 70 participants took part in this year's annual Water Ambassadors Golf Tournament at Blairhampton Golf Course.

Little Blooms, big dreams

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Heather Little, right, and her mom, Sue Little, have been hard at work, cultivating a green space for the community to enjoy. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Little Blooms is a pick-your-own flower garden, and will be growing all natural beauties like the one above over the course of the summer.

It's a field of possibilities. That's what Heather Little sees across the endless span of land. A special piece of land, for her and her family. Little grew up just down the road from the plot, and spent her childhood gazing out her windows at the property that now has 24 rows of flower seeds planted.

"We always had vegetable gardens growing up," she said. "We've always been gardeners and growers. It's in our soul."

Little is the mastermind behind Little Blooms, a pick-your-own flower farm, currently sprouting down Ritchie Falls Road, between Minden and Haliburton. "We are so blessed to have this land," she said, while working alongside her mother, Sue.

The dynamic duo have a vision for sprawling fields of flowers, and the opportunity to provide a destination for people of all ages to experience. Alongside the flowers, Little plans on offering kids' games, yoga classes, painting and basket making workshops, as well as a destination for corporate retreats and weddings.

But they're in the early stages. In a world fuelled by the need for instant gratification, Little is adamant about committing to the labour of love that is gardening. She started planting seeds last spring, and is just starting to see blooms and buds.

But there is growth and promise under the soil. So much so, that Little is opening her garden gates on July 19 for Bloom Fest; an open house to showcase the sights and sounds of the growing garden. The day will offer the opportunity to pick-your-own bouquets from the glorious gardens, as well as highlight over 20 vendors and two local musicians. "My main goal is to attract families to come," said Little. "And to create a family experience for them."

And her blooms will go beyond the perimeters of the property. Little has partnered with Castle Antiques in Haliburton, the Mason Jar Food Truck in Carnarvon, and the Lounge Bistro in Minden to showcase and sell her wide variety of flowers.

With sunflowers, roses, lavender, willow, and sweet peas to name a few, the gardens are blossoming with greenery and bright colours throughout the rows. Little is committed to making the gardens organic and pesticide-free, and has researched natural options to deter pests.

And while the flowers may seem seasonal, Little has plans for the shoulder seasons as well. She has tulips ready for spring, and over 300 pumpkin plants in the ground and waiting for fall. She hopes to offer programming and experiences through all seasons.

Bloom Fest will run on July 19 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 1141 Ritchie Falls Road. For more information, visit Little's Instagram at @littlebloomcompany.

"We have tons of growing space," said Little, "there's so much we can do here."

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Meet Adam Frisk, our new reporter and photographer

ADAM FRISK

Journalist

The newest reporter and photographer for the *Haliburton Echo* and *Minden Times,* Adam Frisk, pictured in his backyard on June 22. /submitted

Hello, Haliburton County! My name is Adam Frisk and I've recently joined the *Haliburton County Echo, Minden Times* and *County Life* as a reporter and photographer. I'm thrilled to join the talented team in a place that I've been proud to call home for nearly five years. I'm excited to contribute to our community through vibrant storytelling while capturing the day-to-day of local life and everything the county has to offer.

A little about me: I'm an award-winning photojournalist who was born in our nation's capital but spent most of my childhood and teen years in Aurora, Ont. I studied commercial photography at Sheridan College in Oakville before graduating from Loyalist College's photojournalism program in Belleville. From there I went on to earn a post-graduate in online journalism. I've been a journalist for more than 20 years, working at several major Canadian media outlets, including *Global News* and *CTV News*, throughout my career.

Early in my career I spent time in west Africa, documenting Rotary International's efforts to eradicate polio. While in Cameroon, I photographed Rotary members and vaccination workers providing the life-saving vaccine to thousands of children. I myself administered the two-drop oral vaccine to dozens of children. That early experience helped shape my journalism and photography, striving to be compassionate through words and still images while capturing the bare facts of the story. I'm passionate about telling community stories, visual storytelling and finding the uniqueness that someone has to offer.

During my time in Toronto, I worked several photography jobs outside of my full-time gig. I was a paparazzo for several years and worked with a modelling agency. I also focused on my passion for landscapes and motion.

So what brings me to Haliburton? My family has had a cottage in the area for many years, a special place where I would be itching to get up to on a Friday afternoon to escape the city, like so many others. The plan was for my wife and I to, some day, have a cottage here, too. Then the pandemic hit.

About eight months into the 'end of times,' it looked like I wasn't going to be back in the newsroom anytime soon, so we took a gamble and pulled the trigger. Yes, I'm one of THOSE people. But hey, I haven't been happier! After joining the camera club and answering a wanted ad in the *Echo* for a freelance photographer, I quickly fell in love with the village. From the autumn decor that greets people entering town, to market days, Midnight Madness and sunsets over Head Lake, making the move to what my mother calls 'God's Country,' was the best decision I have ever made. And now I'm working within the community which was the last step towards settling in.

While at the papers, I vow to you, as a reader, to provide a unique look at what the county has to offer. Report the facts in an unbiased manner and to capture both sides of an issue.

As for my personal time, you may see me walking the Head Lake loop or riding my fat bike on the rail trail towards Donald. Or maybe at Skyline Park, listening to 90s rock music while watching people come and go. Please, if you see me, stop and say hi. Maybe we can chat about how Pearl Jam shaped a generation, or the fact I still miss Gord Downie. Perhaps, you have an interesting story to share or maybe you just want to tell me that I didn't capture your 'good side' in the photo I took. Please don't be shy!

If you do have a story idea or a news tip, please reach out to me at adam@haliburtonpress.com or you can find me on Instagram at @adampaulfrisk. Until then, I'll see you around!

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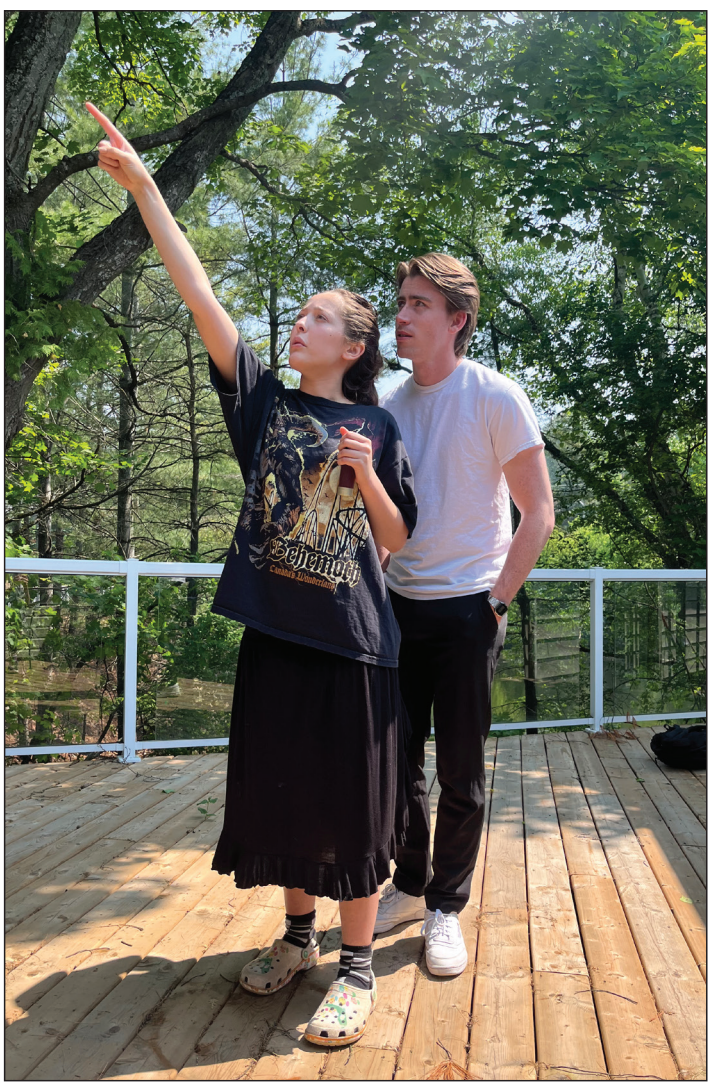
Salt Water Moon returns to the stage with a familiar face

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Ryan Dawson and Kate Campbell opened the first show ever produced by the Highlands Summer Festival, *Salt Water Moon,* on July 3, 2000. 25 years later, Campbell is back as the director of the popular show. /FILE



Taliah Stephenson and Liam Mosher are the love interests in this rendition of *Salt Water Moon*, directed by Kate Campbell. /submitted

A full circle symbolizes many things. A closed circuit, a connection to the past, a full moon.

That's the journey Kate Campbell has been on. The celebrated actor has always called Haliburton her hometown, before she spread her wings to fly into the world of movies and film. She was in the Oscar-nominated film *Gone Girl,* and was nominated for a Maverick Movie Award for best-supporting actress in *Badsville*. She's a writer, a musician, a singer, an actor, a director. Everything she does, she pours her heart and soul into.

But it all started on a small stage in Haliburton, 25 years ago.

It was the inaugural season of the Highlands Summer Festival, and the newly established small-town theatre company was producing a piece by the name of *Salt Water Moon;* a two-person play by David French; set in 1926, but carrying undertones and political currents that resonated with crowds over the years. It's a story of love, a story of loss, a story of raw human emotions.

The audience loved it. And it lay the groundwork for the Summer Festival to move forward; 25 years and beyond. The two cast members 25 years ago were none other than beloved locals Ryan Dawson and Kate Campbell, both on the edge of their teen years at the time, and ready to embark on the next chapter of their lives that lay ahead.

And now they're back. This time, Campbell is sitting in the director's chair. "I love this community so much," she said. "Coming back to this play after 25 years has been deeply meaningful. David French's writing is so powerful, and I have such great memories of working with fellow actor Ryan Dawson and director Doug Brohm on that original production."

While she splits her time between Los Angeles and Toronto these days, and is fully immersed in the film world, Haliburton will always be home to her. "I grew up doing theatre, and part of my artist heart has deeply missed the style," she said. "There's something about having the time and the space to really explore the script."

Campbell has cast Taliah Stephenson and Liam Mosher into the roles of Mary and Jacob, respectively. "They are absolutely incredible," said Campbell. "It's been powerful to see the words coming to life in their own way."

25 years later, Campbell is continuing to forge her way forward in her career. She's just recently announced the launch of *Trailblazing Talks* with Dini Petty. Campbell is a self-proclaimed history buff, and a passionate advocate for women's voices; the trials and triumphs of navigating male-domimated fields.

She deeply believes in the value of coming together to share an artistic experience. "In this era of technology and AI, we're in such desperate need to connect with people and share that human experience together," she said.

And now, as the director of *Salt Water Moon,* she's ready to provide that experience to a Haliburton audience. A closed circuit, a connection to the past, a full moon. "It was a formative experience for me as a young actor - my first paid gig as a teenager - and revisiting it now as a director feels like a reclamation of that whole chapter of my life," she said.

Salt Water Moon kicks off on July 15, with Campbell doing Curtain Talks on July 16, and then again alongside Dawson on July 20. Tickets can be purchased at www.highlandssummerfestival.on.ca.

"It's magic to be here," she said. "It's wonderful to be home."

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JENNIFER MCEATHRON, General Manager and Sales
jenniferm@haliburtonpress.com

EMILY STONEHOUSE, Managing Editor
emily@haliburtonpress.com

THOMAS SMITH, Journalist
thomas@haliburtonpress.com

ADAM FRISK, Journalist
adam@haliburtonpress.com

KAREN LONDON, Production Co-ordinator
karen@haliburtonpress.com

REED SACHAROFF, Production

STACEY POTALIVO, Production

LAURA SMITH, Sales
laura@haliburtonpress.com

PAUL BANELOPOULOS, Sales
paul@haliburtonpress.com

CIRCULATION
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A new normal

WE WATCHED the smoke float through our neighbourhood without batting an eye. Some just called it "haze" or "fog", like it wasn't toxic air floating from neighbouring provinces.

Adam Frisk wrote about how smoky season is the new summer season. It's just normal now.

The same way that blistering hot days are here alongside numbingly cold days.

To a certain extent, we have normalized climate change.

But what we haven't normalized is the way we talk about it. Anyone who brings up the taboo term is quickly accused of fear mongering. Of dramatizing. Of attention seeking.

"It's always been this cold," some say.

"Weather has fluctuated for years," say others.

But not like this.

And I'm not writing this in an effort to add fear or guilt or pressure or anger to our pages.

I am just considering ways that we bring up climate change in a more normalized sense.

We should add it to the regular repertoire.

The same way that when new ideas are presented, it's second nature to ask about the budget. The price points. Talk around costs when it comes to projects that have an impact on the masses is highly normalized. In fact, it's expected. If certain costs are kept under wraps, governmental agencies are accused of gatekeeping, of using taxpayers dollars to line their own pockets in some way, shape, or form.

We should have that same level of transparency when it comes to environmental impacts. Doug Ford has happily added the stamp of prosperity onto his Bill 5 movement; showcasing apparent provincial economic gain, but he hasn't been required to outline the risks and rewards his actions will have on the natural world.

Recently, our own municipalities navigated this slippery slope. A group of concerned citizens requested an environmental impact study when a property looked to change their zoning to accommodate a hobby farm.

Beyond the politics of that situation, I found it admirable that a group of people chose to add the topic of the environment to the table.

Because so often, it's overlooked. It's not seen as a critical factor in day-to-day decisions.

And why is that? This is something that keeps me up at night. Why aren't more people concerned? How are we turning our heads away from these layers of natural disasters that continue to pile up on one another, impacting our everyday lives whether we like it or not?

Emily Stonehouse

Editorial

By stamping on accusations of fear mongering, the relevance of the topic becomes diluted. But when we speak of climate change, it's not a cry for attention, it's a reality.

And while name-calling and hurled hatred is perhaps a defence mechanism kept in the back-pockets of those in doubt, it doesn't change the reality of the situation.

We don't need to live in fear, but we do need to talk about it. We do need to consider how our actions have a direct impact on the generations that will follow us. We do need to address the elephant in the room that our politicians are shying away from important conversations that could put us on a more holistic path forward.

Because this is our new normal.

And we should be normalizing talking about it, instead of waiting for things to get worse.

Caught on camera

EARLIER THIS spring, Debra Copeland noticed something peculiar about the robin's nest over her front porch light in St. Thomas, Ontario. Rather than the four eggs or so that is usual for a robin, there were a whopping eight eggs in the nest. She put a video camera up to check on what was going on and discovered that two mother robins had each laid eggs in one nest. She shared the discovery with a backyard bird group on Facebook, where it also caught the interest of national media. What followed was a window into some uncommon robin behaviour. The two mother robins cooperatively raised their two broods, with five young successfully making it to fledging while people all over the world watched through periodic social media updates.

Over the past decade, there has been a proliferation of inexpensive and easy to use video surveillance cameras. These include doorbell cameras, dashboard cameras, and security cameras. Usually, these devices are installed to deter crime (though there's debate around how helpful cameras truly are for this purpose), but this constant mass surveillance means that if something happens anywhere, there's a good chance it may be caught on video.

Erin Kernohan-Berning

Humans & Techonology

In January, home security and doorbell camera footage captured the final moments of many homes consumed by the wildfires in Los Angeles, California. Dashboard cams caught the harrowing moments residents evacuated Hay River, NWT in 2023 because of the wildfires there. Similar footage from wildfires in Nova Scotia and Fort McMurray, Alberta can also be found online. Only a few decades ago, the stories about these types of events would have been a few photos in the newspaper or a few seconds of video on the evening news. Today, we are able to bear witness to these tragedies as they happen.

Sometimes, something never before recorded is captured by these cameras. In March, a security camera at a power facility in Tha Phay Wa, Myanmar caught the moment the Sagaing Fault ruptured during the devastating 7.7 magnitude earthquake that killed thousands. It is believed that this kind of rupture has never been caught on video before and has attracted the attention of geologists who study earthquakes, as it gives an up close view of how the rupture formed and the land moved.

In another first, the sound of a meteorite striking the ground was recorded by a doorbell camera in Prince Edward Island. Homeowner Laura Kelly and her partner returned home to find debris on their walkway, and thought to check the doorbell camera footage for what might have happened. The video showed something hit their entranceway, making a crackling noise. Examination of the fragments by experts at the University of Alberta confirmed that it was a meteorite. Doorbell camera footage can be useful in meteor tracking, as they are stationary. Multiple sightings along with the direction each camera is facing can help track the path of an asteroid, such as one that caused a sonic boom over England in 2021.

When installing a home security camera, it is important to be familiar with any legislation that applies to your area. Ensure your device only covers your property and you aren't recording somewhere where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy. In terms of online safety, you will want to ensure that any accounts or apps associated with those devices are protected by strong passwords and multifactor authentication. It's also good practice to put up signs to notify people that you are using video surveillance on your property. You will also want to understand what your rights and responsibilities are if your footage is ever requested by law enforcement.

It's important to remember that our ability to find these fascinating moments are a side effect of a larger social phenomenon – that we're now recording everything. In their 1890 essay *The Right to Privacy,* Louis Brandeis and Samuel Warren presciently said, "Instantaneous photographs and newspaper enterprise have invaded the sacred precincts of private and domestic life; and numerous mechanical devices threaten to make good the prediction that 'what is whispered in the closet shall be proclaimed from the house-tops." At the time, they were writing about the intrusion of flash photography on the "right to be let alone." I wonder if they could even have conceived of the kind of mass surveillance that we now participate in willingly today.

At the same time, it's hard not to be fascinated by the insight into our world the camera can give us. Like Debra in St. Thomas, I'm watching my own robin's nest through a security camera, and I've used my doorbell camera to watch lightning strikes after a storm. Today, it's probably harder for me to imagine a world without cameras than it would be for Brandeis and Warren to imagine a world full of them.

points of view

A beautiful mind

Loon Tales

Steve Galea

ON SUNDAY, I confirmed what I'm guessing many of you have long suspected. That's right, I possess one of the greatest minds of my generation.

I'm not just saying this. No sir, I made other people say it.

You see, in a classic one-of-the-greatest-minds-of-my-generation move, I texted ten people. The group consisted of some of my nicest friends and a couple of relatives.

Then, I posed the burning question, "Would you consider me to be one of the greatest minds of my generation?"

Their initial response was universally, "Why are you asking?"

This was generally followed by "If I say yes, will this text conversation be over?" Then after confirming that, their responses were "Yes" or grudging variations of it.

Only two people said "No." The first was my sister, who still harbours lingering childhood resentment from my pioneering style of brothering. The other was my youngest daughter, who prides herself in being forthright and honest. So, in yet another classic one-of-the-greatest-minds-of-my-generation move, both responses were summarily disqualified.

With that done, eight people out of eight, roughly 87 per cent, confirmed that I was the greatest mind of my generation.

At this point, you are probably asking: What is it like to have to live with this title?

Well, let me tell you, it's not easy.

From here on in – or at least until Thursday, when we all forget about this column – I am going to need to routinely utter intelligent or enigmatic statements – or, at the very least, use words such as enigmatic.

I suspect it will also help if I wear an ascot, chew on a pipe, and carry a walking stick. Then, of course, I will also need to affect an eccentric quirk.

It's got to be interesting enough for my future biographers to analyse and debate yet also be colouring book appropriate.

Thus far, I am considering affecting an unhealthy interest in the Kool-Aid Man.

So, I will warn you that if you stop me on the street and take the conversation even slightly Kool-Aid Man adjacent, I will start regaling you with Kool-Aid Man trivia and perhaps even entertain you with his back story. For instance, did you know that when he was young he was a pitcher in the little leagues? Or that his nickname was "Big Thirst." Or that he is 6-feet-tall and born in 1954?

I'll probably also speculate about the self-esteem issues he must have dealt with as a result of looking like a big jug with legs. Then, I might express my admiration for him and how he continually broke down barriers and communicated with millions of people with his limited vocabulary which mostly consisted of the words "Oh yeah!"

That, plus the walking stick, the pipe and ascot will probably keep most of you from approaching me. That way, we can keep the mystery alive.

The idea is to be off-putting and eccentric enough so that people will quietly point to me and say, "There's Galea, one of the greatest minds of his generation…"

It will be one of those ideas, that repeated often enough, will one day be accepted as highly unlikely.

But those who do believe it will only do so after concluding that my generation – the one that played lawn darts – is not known for being overly bright.

To which I say, "Oh yeah…."

pic *of the* past

This week's pic of the past comes from the *Echo* archives. "Donkey baseball: a new asspect to an old game," reads the headline of the story on July 11, 1979. According to the story, almost 100 people came out to the Haliburton baseball diamond to watch the Haliburton firefighters take on the Kinsmen in the very strange game. The game ended tied at three apiece. /FILE

Brothers, sisters, and fish

Our road Down

Sharon Lynch

MATT WAS FED up. Every time he wanted to use the old rowboat, it was full of water. He knew his sister had been out in it the day before and it hadn't rained since then so she must have seen the water in it. Had Sue just sat with her feet submerged as she crossed the bay?

He was not having a good day and it was still early. Burnt toast, an undercooked egg and he had just managed to scrape enough coffee together for a decent cup. Sue didn't care, as long as she had her tea.

Actually it was a great morning, the sun still low over the far shore and the air full of robins. He figured there was probably a nest in the usual place above the boathouse door. When he and Sue were kids they used to watch the ugly little naked creatures slowly turn into birds. Every year they checked for the small blue eggs and were never disappointed.

This morning the plan was to throw a line in the bay and maybe catch supper. It was Matt's first time at the cottage this year and he had been looking forward to it for weeks. While not good at bailing out the rowboat or keeping track of the stock of coffee, Sue was good at those first-of-the-season chores. She knew how to shake out the winter smell and dust, the mouse droppings that always found their way inside, and whip the kitchen supplies into shape. If only she'd remember the coffee and not just her tea.

It was going to be a hot day. The air had a heavy feel and the sun was almost red in the misty light. Matt saw a fish jump to catch a bug and could hardly wait to get out on the water.

As he used the ancient can to bail out the boat, he thought of the stories his parents used to tell of their early days at the lake. They had started out camping on the far shore since no roads were yet in place. But they had plans. Once a road was put through, they could truck in supplies and start to build.

But those first two years would have been wicked, he thought. Dense bush with lots of bugs. A hole in the ground to keep food cool and another hole for a toilet. Quite a change for city folks.

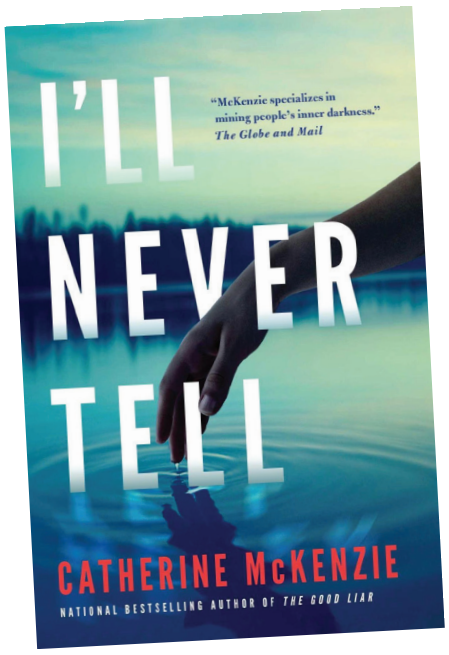
In the end however, it had all been worthwhile. Their hard work had resulted in what Matt and Sue had enjoyed every summer all through their childhoods. Even now, they both spent as much time as they could out of the city.

In less than half an hour he had two nice little pan-sized bass. Since Sue had not brought coffee and had left water in the boat, Matt figured it was only fair she got to clean the fish. But he prepared himself for an argument over that one.

Minden Memories

This 1954 photo shows a large billboard at the southern edge of Haliburton County along Highway 35, welcoming visitors with a glimpse of the rugged beauty ahead. Located near Minden - often called the gateway to the Haliburton Highlands - it marked the county line. /Photo courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

HCPL's Book of the Week


"McKenzie specializes in mining people's inner darkness."
The Globe and Mail
I'LL NEVER TELL
CATHERINE McKENZIE
NATIONAL BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF THE GOOD LIAR

What happened to Amanda Holmes? Twenty years ago, she was found bludgeoned in a rowboat at the MacAllister family's Camp Macaw. No one was ever charged.

Now, after their parents' sudden deaths, the MacAllister siblings return to camp to read the will and decide what to do with the valuable property. Each sibling has a different opinion about what should happen. Meanwhile, longtime groundskeeper Sean Booth just hopes he won't lose his home.

But the will complicates everything: the estate can't be settled until Amanda's mystery is solved. Each sibling holds a piece of the truth – and any one of them could be guilty. Will they uncover what really happened, or will long-held secrets finally destroy the family?

I'll Never Tell by Catherine McKenzie is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library.

Letters to the Editor

Much ado about nothing?

To the Editor,

Let's consider what we accomplished in two elections recently, the federal election of April. 28 that brought us Mark Carney and the provincial election of Feb. 27 that re-confirmed Doug Ford.

They have two things at least in common, the Trump factor and the grotesque distortions of the representation they produced in Parliament and the Ontario legislature. Perhaps one more, the surprising loss of party leaders from three major parties, Pierre Poilievere, Conservatives, Jagmeet Singh, NDP and Bonnie Crombie, Ont. Liberals.

Oh maybe also, the difficulty of weighing the importance of them. Is this a crisis, a turning point or not and if so what to do about it?

Grotesque result? In Ontario, the Ont. Liberals got whacked, almost 30 per cent of the votes cast but only 11 per cent of the seats, while the NDP got about 19 per cent of the vote, substantially less than the Ont. Liberals, and official opposition status and 27 seats, 22 per cent of the seats!

Now federally, The NDP got whacked while the Bloc Quebecois was handsomely rewarded. The bloc got 22 seats with less votes than the NDP's seven. There are other distortions across the country. But just consider the hapless Greens. When the climate crisis is looming their support continues to languish.

Much ado about nothing or a real crisis of Canadian democracy to borrow Andrew Coyne's title. The book is available now in the library.

Jim Milne,
Haliburton

A good read!

To the Editor,

Congratulations on your detailed succinct well-informing article about our fabulous evening with Steve Paikin at the Pinestone!

Karen Smith,
Haliburton

Minden Rotary seeks spare change

To the Editor,

Minden Rotary needs your change … all coins collected go back into our community!

We live at an age that everyone uses credit cards and debit cards, Apple watches, Apple phones, cell phone wallets to purchase most everything.

There is, however, a lost and used cash drawer in every home. In it are lost and forgotten pennies. Nickels, dimes, quarters, loonies and toonies. These coins now sit untouched and unused for long periods of time. They are taking up space. It is rumoured that the Canadian penny will soon no longer be an acceptable currency.

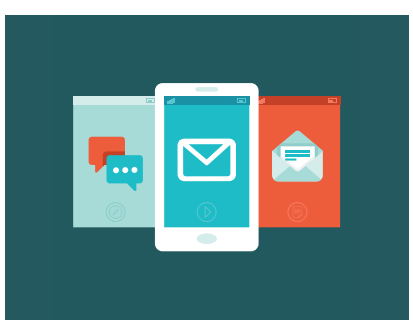
On the occasion that you pull a $20 bill from your wallet and give it to merchant to buy something there is change that finds its way to your pockets. When you get home and you empty your pockets think to yourself what do I do with this change. I put it into a jar. I put it into a bowl on my bureau or I leave it with my keys at the front door.

Minden Rotary is asking you to gather up these coins from these various sources and donate them to Rotary. The cash and money that we are able to gather from those jars and bowls and key containers next to the door, we will spend it on our community.

At the Minden Village Canada Day Celebrations, the Minden Rotary Celebrity Clowns will travelling through the crowd with a wagon with a big Red Nose or will be on the parking lot in front of Minden Auto Care. We invite you to come with their lost lonely pennies and coins to put into our big red noses. Thank you to our Haliburton Highland's Community for not only supporting and giving energy to our Canada Day celebration, but also contributing in a fabulous way to allow Rotary to put money back into the community.

The Minden Rotary Celebrity Clowns hand out little red noses as a thank you for your donation. We believe our community "nose" how to support Rotary.

Sally Moore,
Minden Rotarian



Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to
emily@haliburtonpress.com

The Minden District Fur Harvesters are still going strong with around 50 members. From left, Rory Cummings, Brian Austen, Ted Nottage, Gord Johnson, Dwayne Cummings and Dave Simser participated in their annual road cleanup on Saturday, June 21. /Submitted

Minden District Fur Harvesters membership strong despite falling prices

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

After fishing and hunting throughout most of his life, Minden District Fur Harvesters President Ted Nottage learned about trapping from his neighbour in the 1970s. After his neighbour broke his leg, Nottage agreed to check his traps for him.

This started a lifelong passion of trapping and harvesting fur.

Many people may not realize that the Minden District Fur Harvesters is still going strong with 50 active members.

Their jurisdiction stretches from Seabright, to as north as Dwight, all the way to areas like Buckhorn and Coboconk.

"The way the fur prices are now, it is hard to make a living from this," said Nottage. "And most of us are getting too old."

Nottage relates trapping to fishing. An angler catches fish for sport to throw back, or to eat to save money. A trapper catches animals to harvest their pelts and to sell.

"You can just buy fish from the supermarket though," said Nottage. "So what is the difference?"

Nottage says that he loves being outdoors and the money that he earns from harvesting off the land is icing on the cake.

The Minden District Fur Harvesters have made efforts to attract new, youthful members to their organization through their annual winter workshop. Previously held at the Minden Community Centre, their workshop had to change locations, with the latest being held in Wilberforce.

The workshop offers trapping demonstrations, taxidermy displays, vendors, and information for visitors.

While prices have plummeted with changing fashion tastes and social pressures, the members of the furtrapper's organization will keep doing what they love.

"I really enjoy beaver trapping," said Nottage. "Processing beaver is very time consuming but I get a lot of satisfaction doing it."

Nottage says that as a trapper, he has around 14,000 acres of land with lakes, creeks, and ponds where he can trap. The variety of animals he traps includes otter, muskrat, beaver, fox, fisher, marten, raccoon, squirrel, and skunk.

Trappers in Ontario have quotas set by the Ministry of Natural Resources. For some species, they need to harvest 75 per cent of that quote in order to keep their license. For example, if Nottage has a quota of 20 beavers, he needs to catch 15.

For Nottage, he tries to take one or two beavers from a section of his trapline. The following year, he will rest that area and not set harvest beavers from it. A majority of Nottage's lines are set on crown land in which he has special permission to harvest from.

Over the 40 years of harvesting the same trapline, Nottage says that the population of animals he harvests has remained consistent.

For fur harvesters in Ontario, one auction house remains. The Fur Harvesters Auction in North Bay is the go-to place for fur harvesters to sell their pelts in Ontario, with the most recent auction taking place on June 19. Nottage says that the Minden District Fur Harvester maintains a close relationship with this auction house.

The market of furs is constantly changing. This year, the price of beaver pelts are down, but the price of marten and fishers are in high demand.

"Hopefully in 10 years, we'll still be going," said Nottage. "We've been going since 1958."

Nottage says that he rarely catches unintended species in his traps. Sometimes when trapping for fishers, he may catch a flying squirrel or a skunk.

While the methods of trapping have not changed throughout the centuries, Nottage says that the equipment is constantly getting better, especially at protecting unintended species that end up in the traps.

All traps used by trappers are certified by the government.

"It is like Christmas Day," said Nottage. "Wondering what is in the trap, if I set it in the right place, if I set it up properly. It is exciting."

Nottage says that 99 per cent of interactions with the public and learning about what he does has been positive.

The Minden District Fur Harvesters are keeping busy throughout the year and will be making appearances at Buckhorn Blizzard Fest, Wilberforce Fair, Kinmount Fair, and more throughout the year. They welcome questions and encourage people to take interest in trapping.

To avoid any tragic incidents, the fur harvesters urge anyone walking their dog on Crown Land or unknown trails, to walk them on a leash.

The Minden District Fur Harvesters regularly update their Facebook page and you can reach out to them by emailing midnenfh@gmail.com.

Strawberry sweetness

Camp Wanakita hosted their annual Strawberry Social on June 22. The fun event is an opportunity for locals and visitors to get a taste of camp life, and explore the property and services the site has to offer. Many took to the water on the hot day, while others stayed inside to sample sweet strawberry treats provided by the camp. /TIM YANO staff photographer

Boshkung euchre: playing for good

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

If you are like my family, you were raised in an euchre household.

Every week, my aunts and uncles would gather around the card table shouting words about trump (before its meaning changed entirely), tricks, and who is whose partner. While I was not allowed to play as a kid (I stuck to cribbage), euchre became an important event for my family to catch-up and have a fun family game night.

Dave Hammond first moved to the Minden area three and a half years ago. He did not know anyone.

Seeking the chance to make friends, Hammond started a bowling league that met at Fast Lane Bowling.

After the bowling event fell through, Hammond approached Mathew Renda and Deborah Banks, the owners of Boshkung Brewing, about hosting a euchre tournament at the bar.

"The reason I approached Matt was that I had seen how much he had done for the community," said Hammond. "I wanted to pay it forward to him as well."

Additionally, Hammond organized the event in order to make friends in the community.

"Our first tournament was a huge success," he said.

Since starting the euchre tournament two years ago, the event has raised over $21,000 for local charities and initiatives.

To keep money local, Hammond visits local businesses to purchase gift cards and items for tournament prizes. As word spread about the tournaments, people would show up to their events to donate money for their chosen cause.

It is always a packed house at Boshkung Brewing doing their regular euchre tournaments. The tournaments have raised over $21,000 in the two years they have been running. /Submitted

Benefactors change regularly, with the funds going to the nonprofits like the Minden Community Food Centre, Walkabout Farms, local churches, and Snowflake Meadows.

With 95 per cent of the tournament players returning tournament after tournament, Hammond is stunned by their support.

"They are a bigger part of this than I am," he said. "The people here are overly generous."

Hammond says that the euchre tournaments max out around 36 people. Every tournament has sold out of its seats. There is an ever-growing waitlist for people wanting to play.

During the summer, the tournament fills Boshkung's patio and a large portion of their indoor space in the winter. Hammond has no plans for changing their location.

"We're loyal," said Hammond. "Boshkung has the seating that we need. When I hear people coming in asking for a donation, I don't think I have ever heard Matt say no."

Noting Renda's support of the breakfast program at Archie Stouffer Elementary School and a variety of fundraising efforts, Hammond says that the bar owners is a pillar of the Minden community.

"People don't care about who wins and loses," said Hammond. "It's not about what the prizes are but the charity for the specific event."

Participants range in ages, says Hammond. Some players are in their teens and twenties. All ages are allowed to play.

Hammond would like to encourage anyone of all playing levels to participate in the event. The euchre community is warm and inviting. While competing, people are not serious and new players should not be intimidated in participating.

"When you think about all this outpouring of support and generosity, it blows me away," said Hammond.

Hammond also reports that he has more friends than ever before.

"I know more people in Minden now than some people that have lived here for 30 years," he laughed.

While the date or benefactor of the next tournament has not been set in stone, Hammond says that the event will be taking place over the next few weeks, and that the benefactor will likely be the Minden Community Food Centre.

Seats for the next euchre tournament can be saved by emailing Hammond at mindeneuchre@gmail.com.

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Dirty Soda Girls' Tracy Hawkins and Jodie McCarthy pose for a photo on June 21 during the soda shop's soft opening. /ADAM FRISK staff

Dirty Soda Girls ready to pop in Haliburton

ADAM FRISK
Journalist

A new business venture in Haliburton Village is set to open this week and it'll sure put a little pop in your step.

Dirty Soda Girls is eyeing the long weekend for its grand storefront opening on Highland Street, serving up wild and colourful, carbonated soft drinks. The female-owned bubbling beverage business first launched in southern Ontario, and is operated by sisters Tracy Hawkins and Jodie McCarthy, their mother, and also their kids.

The so-called dirty soda has been around for more than a decade, but has become more mainstream thanks, in part, to social media and reality television. Originating in Utah, the carbonated soft drink concoction was popular amongst those who abstain from alcohol and caffeine and within the large Mormon population in the U.S. state. The hit television show *The Secret Lives of Mormon Wives* for a large part, helped thrust the popularity of the Utah mainstay into pop culture lore.

"A dirty soda came out of Utah and the Mormons, because the Mormon religion does not drink coffee or alcohol, so they created dirty sodas using pop and different kinds of creams and different kinds of syrups," Hawkins told the *Echo* in a June 19 interview. "So, it's pop-based, almost like a Starbucks but without the coffee."

McCarthy said the beverage is more of an old-timey drink, "like something from those old soda shops back in the day, it's closer to that."

The sisters explained that the popularity of the drink has exploded outside the state of Utah, with franchises opening in cities like Las Vegas and New York. However, only a handful of shops exist in Canada, mainly in Vancouver and Calgary.

"We're going to be crazy not to start something here," McCarthy said, recalling a dinner conversation she had with her sister about the increasing popularity of dirty sodas.

So from there, their idea was born in the form of a small trailer, pop-up shop-like experience.

"We've been doing events for a little while now, in Niagara Falls, Newmarket and Guelph," McCarthy said. "We're up here most of the summer so we'll have the trailer for concerts at Kennisis Marina and other events."

Then came the storefront, a project that has been in the works for more than three months. Wanting to make the Haliburton area a permanent home in the future, the sisters decided to jump in with a brick and mortar location.

"We both would like to retire up here in this area, full-time, so we are trying to ease on in, making that happen sooner rather than later," McCarthy said.

"We like the small community, the small town vibes," Hawkins said, adding that the community has been really welcoming, with people stopping by the store to say hi.

Dirty Soda Girls menu features a line-up of original recipes and drink options with beverage names that play homage to some good ol' Canadian music. From the likes of *'Life is a Highway,'* which features Coke, toasted marshmallow syrup, and cream, or *'Patio Lanterns,'* made with Coke, pineapple and cherry syrup, to *'You Oughta Know,'* a soda water, raspberry and pineapple concoction or *'Call Me Maybe,'* a Sprite-based mix, the drink menu will never let your tastebuds go flat.

From print companies to syrup suppliers, the soda shop is also keeping it Canadian by sourcing products and ingredients from companies north of the border.

Aside from the original mixtures, what sets Dirty Soda Girls aside from others comes down to the ice served in their drinks.

"It's all about the nugget ice," McCarthy said, pointing at a newly-installed stainless steel machine. "I think this is what differentiates us from other people, not just our recipes, we invested in this nugget ice machine, because it's crunchy, it keeps it cold … it's not just ice cubes."

As for the name Dirty Soda Girls itself, the sisters said it just sort of came naturally, a play on words on what they're serving up, a female-owned business, it just sort of made sense to them.

So, if you're out and about over the long weekend and looking for something sweet, cold and a little different, pop by Dirty Soda Girls and give a *'Bobcaygeon'* or a *'Call Me Maybe'* a try.

Dear Valued Readers,
Please note that due to the Canada Day holiday, the July 1st edition of the *Haliburton Echo* will be delivered to post offices and news dealers on **Wednesday, July 2.**

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Council seeks better understanding of STR map

from page 1

existing licensed STRs via an interactive map. "Short term rentals are businesses," said Roberts, "They are only licensed on the basis that they are considered a business." It was noted that license details may be posted on the municipality's website.

Roberts shared that most cottage-based communities in near proximity do include a map or list of STRs within their jurisdiction, including Huntsville, Ramara, Bracebridge, and Lake of Bays.

There are three reasons that Roberts and her team believe that sharing the information on STRs publicly could be beneficial. Firstly, it provides those looking to book an STR with the confirmation that the STR is in fact licensed. "It allows the travelling public to know that the place that they're spending their money at and where they're staying are safe to be spending their time at and are compliant with local regulations," said Roberts.

The next point was to highlight the importance of letting neighbouring locals know that an STR is being operated in their neighbourhood, and whether it is licensed or not. Roberts noted that some of the concerns heard from residents revolve around STRs that are operating unlicensed, which could add strain to the natural resources, as well as septic and fire management.

Lastly, the knowledge around STRs in an area could impact purchasing decisions in a community. "For some folks, they may not want to purchase in an area that has a number of short term rentals," said Roberts. On the flip side, if someone is interested in purchasing a property for rentals, they may be seeking a place where rentals are welcomed and in abundance.

Roberts dove into the feedback received from Dysart's launch of the interactive map in May. "We did have some people who were really concerned about the protection of their personal privacy," she said.

Protection of personal information in municipalities in Ontario is legislated through the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, with complaints regarding privacy made to the Privacy Commissioner's Office, known as the IPC.

"IPC decisions have long recognized that information required for business licensing is not considered private or personal information, even if that business relates to the individual's dwelling," shared Roberts in her report to council.

She also noted that land ownership information in Ontario is not private information. "Anybody who is computer savvy and has a credit card can buy all of the land ownership and registration information for any given property anywhere in Ontario," she said.

The dashboard in proposal would only include a license number and a civic address.

The other concern that has been floated around was safety and security of STR operators with their addresses being made public. "We did take a look around," said Roberts, "and we have not been able to find specific examples of increased crime or conflict."

She noted that she has worked with other municipalities within the county and beyond to identify any tangible safety concerns, and they have not noted any reason for concern linked to the publishing of STR addresses. "We have no indication that there is public safety concern from providing this information online," she said, "and we think it's imperative that all property owners do their part to keep their property secure."

Roberts made the recommendation that the STR dashboard be published to the municipality's Short-Term Rental Licensing webpage.

Highlands East Mayor Dave Burton noted that he is in support of the proposal, sharing that if he went through the proper licensing process to legitimize an STR, he would be proud to display the address online. "I can't see anything really negative about it at this time," he said.

Deputy Mayor Cec Ryall shared that he has received feedback from constituents, voicing concerns around the proposed dashboard. He made a request to access the site before it goes live, in an effort to understand the breadth of information shared.

Roberts shared that the site is ready to go, but it is not yet embedded onto the main municipal site. They were hoping to make it live the first week of July, but shared that she can create a private link to allow council to experience the site.

Ryall reiterated that he would like council to have access prior to making it public. "As soon as that goes live, guess whose telephones are going to start ringing," he said. He noted that while this may delay the launch, he would rather have a comfortable understanding of the topic.

Roberts agreed to email out a private link for councillors prior to the next meeting, scheduled for July 15. This would allow council full access to the STR Dashboard before it goes live, with any questions or concerns presented during the next meeting, and the intention of going live following the meeting.

Council agreed to the recommendation from Roberts, and tabled the topic until July's meeting.

Loop Troupe one step closer to sound clarity

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

This time last year, Wilberforce's theatrical group, the Loop Troupe, won the MacDougall Community Contest, which gifted them with $5000 to go towards a local project - something that would benefit the community as a whole.

The project in mind was to support the sound around the Lloyd Watson Community Centre; adding sound baffles to the walls to mitigate echoes, and adding a sound system to the hall.

But one year later, the group has realized that they may need more. "The good news is we won the money," said Jodie Rupnow of the Loope Troupe Sound Committee. "The bad news is that that's not nearly enough."

Rupnow made a delegation during the Highlands East special meeting of council on June 17. While her presentation was largely to keep councillors in the loop with the Troupe, she was also confirming that all parties were on board for the minor renovations that would happen onsite."We need to know that it's okay with you guys," she said. "It's going to affect everybody."

The group is seeking the installation of sound boards to place along the walls and ceiling of the hall, with hopes that it would assist with sound carrying through the large room. While Rupnow said that there are professionals who specialize in this field, their consulting fees would significantly dwindle the prize pot from the cash win.

Luckily, there has been support from locals on the initiative. "It's amazing how many people we have right in Wilberforce that have been in that industry," said Rupnow.

While Rupnow was seeking confirmation to move forward with the project, she also put in a subtle ask for financial support. "If you have any donation you could give us, we'd accept that too," she said. "Any resources, any information, or any money."

Highlands East Mayor Dave Burton was on board to move ahead on the project. "Yes, we can certainly work together on something," he said. "I certainly support what you're doing, as long as it's compatible with what the building is."

Burton suggested that the Loop Troupe work alongside township staff to facilitate resources and materials that would work in the building.

Municipality of Dysart et al
135 Maple Ave., P.O. Box 389,
Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0
Telephone: (705) 457-1740
Email: info@dysartetal.ca
Website: www.dysartetal.ca

NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING
COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT

- DATE: Wednesday, July 9th, 2025
- TIME: 11:00 am.
- LOCATION: The Committee of Adjustment meeting will be held in the Council Chambers and electronically via Zoom. The meeting will be live streamed to YouTube.

APPLICATIONS:

1. D13-MV-2025-011 Barton and Sabir

- The following variance is requested to permit the location of a seasonal dwelling on a lot located in the WR4L zone:

  a) A variance to Section 5.2 to permit a seasonal dwelling to have a minimum interior side lot line setback of 1.2 metres (3.9 feet) as opposed to the required minimum of 4.5 metres (15 feet).

- Location: Part Lot 23, Concession 5, Lot 40, Plan 513 in the Geographic Township of Havelock, in the Municipality of Dysart et al.
  Roll No. 061-000-08901 – 1011 Forget Me Not Lane

2. D13-MV-2025-012 Plummer

- The following variances are requested to legalize the location of a private cabin on a lot located in the WR4 zone:

  a) A variance to Section 3.1(e)(i) to permit a private cabin to be located within a front yard abutting a shoreline.

  b) A variance to Section 3.1(e)(v) to permit a private cabin to have a minimum interior side lot line setback of 2.5 metres (5.9 feet) as opposed to the required minimum of 4.5 metres (15 feet).

- Location: Part Lot 11, Concession 3, Lot 27, Plan 511 in the Geographic Township of Dudley, in the Municipality of Dysart et al.
  Roll No. 020-000-49500 – 1197 Precipice Road

3. D13-MV-2025-013 Flood

- The following variances are requested to permit an increase to the maximum lot coverage and maximum shoreland lot coverage on a property in the WR4L zone:

  a) A variance to Section 5.2 to permit the maximum lot coverage to be 19.4% as opposed to the permitted maximum of 15%.

  b) A variance to Section 5.2 to permit the maximum shoreland lot coverage to be 24.2% as opposed to the permitted maximum of 15%.

- Location: Part Lot 20, Concession 8, in the Geographic Township of Guilford, in the Municipality of Dysart et al.
  Roll No. 041-000-38600 – 1267 Redstone Lake Road

FOR MORE INFORMATION about electronic meetings and public participation in an electronic meeting, contact the Secretary-Treasurer at ameijer@dysartetal.ca.

ANY PERSON is entitled to attend the hearing to express his/her views about these applications or may be represented by an agent for that purpose. If you do not attend the hearing the Committee may proceed in your absence, and you will not be entitled to any further notice of the proceedings. The Committee will accept oral and written submissions.

A COPY OF THE DECISION will be sent to the applicant, the agent and to each person who has filed with the Secretary-Treasurer a written request for notice of the decision.

FURTHER INFORMATION: including specific information about the zone provisions affected by each application, and electronic meeting process is available from the Planning and Land Information Department at the Municipal Office by appointment only (8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday) or by phoning 705-457-1740.

Adam Meijer
Secretary-Treasurer, Committee of Adjustment

Art, crafts, and antiques show set to rock Dorset Parkette

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

The Dorset Arts, Crafts and Antiques show has been taking place for over 20 years.

The show is an annual gathering of Algonquin Highlands and surrounding area's top artists, crafters, and antique sellers.

"Every type of art will be there," said Chad Ingram, communications coordinator for Algonquin Highlands. With around 20 vendors, visitors will be able to purchase paintings, jewelry, ceramics, furniture, crafts made from seaglass, dog bandanas, purses, handbags, and more.

"You can support local, independent artists," he said.

A large portion of the art that will be for sale will have been directly inspired by and made within the county.

Even the organizers are not certain what will be for sale from the antique vendors. With no set criteria, perhaps you will find your family's next treasure at the sale.

Ingram says that visitors are encouraged to spend the day in Dorset and visit the local restaurants for lunch and even climb the Dorset Tower.

"I love it, it is a great way to spend a Sunday," said Ingram. "The Dorset Parkette is one of our most beautiful parks."

Junkyard Symphony is a band based in Ottawa that promotes environmental stewardship and eco-consciousness. Using objects that would be destined for the landfill, the band acts as conductors while the audience plays instruments for them.

The band's website warns visitors to be prepared for a radical ride of rapid rhythms, awesome antics, clownish comedy, terrific tricks, magnificent magic, tons of talent, and plenty of participation. They will be playing at 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m., and 1 p.m.

Junkyard Symphony is able to perform by funding through the Dorset Community Partnership Fund. The Dorset Community Partnership oversees the Dorset Community Health Care Hub, Dorset Community Park and Pavillion, Cedar Narrows Park, and the Colebridge Park and children's playground.

"With everything that is going on south of the border, I think keeping your money as local as possible and as Canadian as possible is an important thing," said Ingram.

The Dorset Parkette is located at 22602 Highway 35 and the show will be taking place on Saturday, June 29 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Seeing the forest for the trees

The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust kicked off their second Bioblitz this past weekend. An event that calls in citizen scientists to spend 24-hours monitoring and identifying the wide variety of species in Barnum Creek. During the last Bioblitz, set in Dahl Forest, the Land Trust was able to recognize over 700 species, giving researchers an in-depth analysis of the property and the eco-diversity of the region.
During the Bioblitz held this past weekend, the Land Trust coordinated a series of guided hikes, including identification walks focused on birds, nocturnal species, wildflowers, and trees. Pictured, hike leader Jim Hopkins leads a session through the heat with a focus on tree identification around Barnum Creek. The event garnered interest from hikers of all ages. /TIM YANO staff photographer

A note to the community from Haliburton Highlands Health Services:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS), I share with mixed emotions that our President and CEO, Veronica Nelson, will be moving on to a new opportunity as President and CEO of Ross Memorial Hospital (RMH). Veronica's last day at HHHS will be September 5, 2025. While we are sad to see Veronica go, we are deeply grateful for her leadership and look forward to strengthening our existing meaningful partnership with RMH through shared services and team.

Since joining HHHS, Veronica has been a transformational leader, guiding the organization through a period of tremendous growth and renewal. Under her leadership, the hospital successfully brought CT services to the community, began the essential work of master planning for both the hospital and long term care homes, forged new community partnerships, and laid a foundation of trust and transparency that has become a hallmark of our culture. Veronica's deep commitment to patient care and community health led to the recruitment of new physicians and the formation of a strong and collaborative leadership team.

"It has been the honour of a lifetime to serve as President and CEO of this incredible organization. I am deeply grateful to our dedicated staff, outstanding leadership team, board of directors, foundation, auxiliary, community partners, residents, families, and most importantly, our patients, clients and residents.

Thank you for your trust, your collaboration, and your unwavering commitment to care. While I look forward to this next chapter, I will always carry immense pride in what we've accomplished together at HHHS," said Veronica Nelson.

The Board of Directors will be meeting in the next couple of weeks to begin the search for her successor. We look to the future with confidence and excitement, building on the strong foundation that was developed under Veronica's leadership.

We are very excited for Veronica as she begins this next chapter in her career. Her steady leadership has been instrumental in shaping who we are today, and while we will miss her dearly, we know she will continue to thrive and inspire in her new role. Please join us in thanking Veronica and wishing her every success in the journey ahead.

Regards,
Irene Odell
Board Chair,
Haliburton Highlands Health Services

President and CEO of Haliburton Highlands Health Services, Veronica Nelson, will be leaving the role to pursue an opportunity at Ross Memorial Hospital in Lindsay. /FILE

VALERIE KUINKA
General &
Co-Artistic Director

RICHARD MARGISON
Co-Artistic Director

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MASTERCLASSES

RICHARD MARGISON MASTERCLASSES
Tuesday, July 29th | 7:30-9:00pm
St. George's Anglican Church, Haliburton

OPERAS

LET'S MAKE OPERA! *Workshops*
Be the first to hear 3 NEW SHORT CANADIAN OPERAS based on stories from Haliburton County. Supported in full by the ONTARIO TRILLIUM FOUNDATION.
Saturday, August 9th | 7:30-9:00pm
Entrance by DONATION

LOVE & BETRAYAL
1. LA VOIX HUMAINE - Francis Poulenc
A woman's last conversation with her former lover. Featuring tenor, PATRICIA YATES.
(French w/English Surtitles)
2. Scenes exploring themes of love & betrayal. Visit website for casting and program details.
Thursday, August 14th | 7:30-9:00pm

THE MERRY WIDOW - Franz Lehar
In this hilarious operetta a wealthy widow is pursued by a multitude of suitors interested in her fortune.
August 21st, 23rd, 25th | 7:30-10:00pm
Pre-performance chat @6:30pm
August 24th | 2:00-4:30pm
(Opera in English; suitable for all ages)
All operas presented at Northern Lights Pavilion, Haliburton

CONCERTS

#1: OPERA TO BROADWAY
Thursday, July 31st | 7:30-9:00pm

#2: POP GOES THE OPERA!
Thursday, August 7th | 7:30-9:00pm

#3: HOMECOMING:
HOS ALUMNI IN CONCERT
Monday, August 18th | 7:30-9:00pm
All operas presented at St. George's Anglican Church, Haliburton

PAY-WHAT-YOU-CAN EVENTS:

#1: WHY CHOOSE OPERA?
Tuesday, August 5th | 7:30-8:45pm
Check website for location

#2: CASUAL SONG SOIRÉE
Tuesday, August 12th | 7:30-8:45pm
St. George's Anglican Church, Haliburton

#3: MUSIC ON THE WATER
Saturday, August 16th | 6:00-7:00pm
Fairfield Bay, Mountain Lake, Minden
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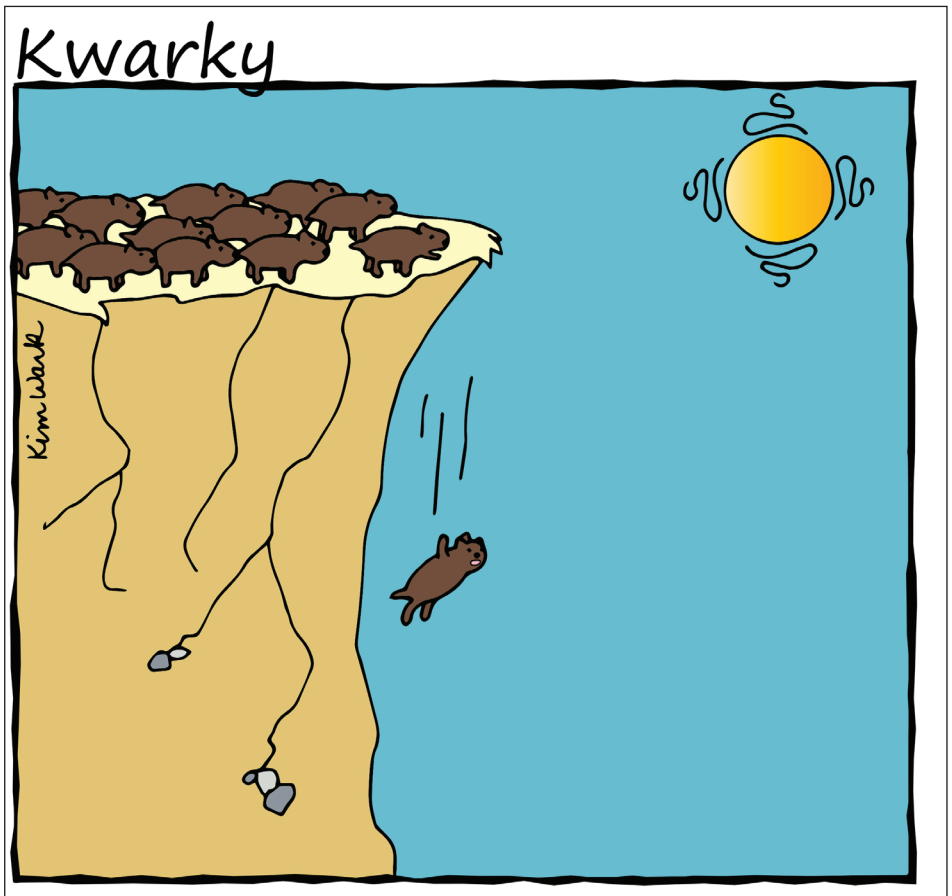

"'If your friends all told you to jump off a cliff, would you?' was rhetorical!"

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8		9		7				
	3		9					
				4		1		
7		2			5	4		
	8				9			1
							5	
4			5		8			
	5					3		
				1	2		6	8

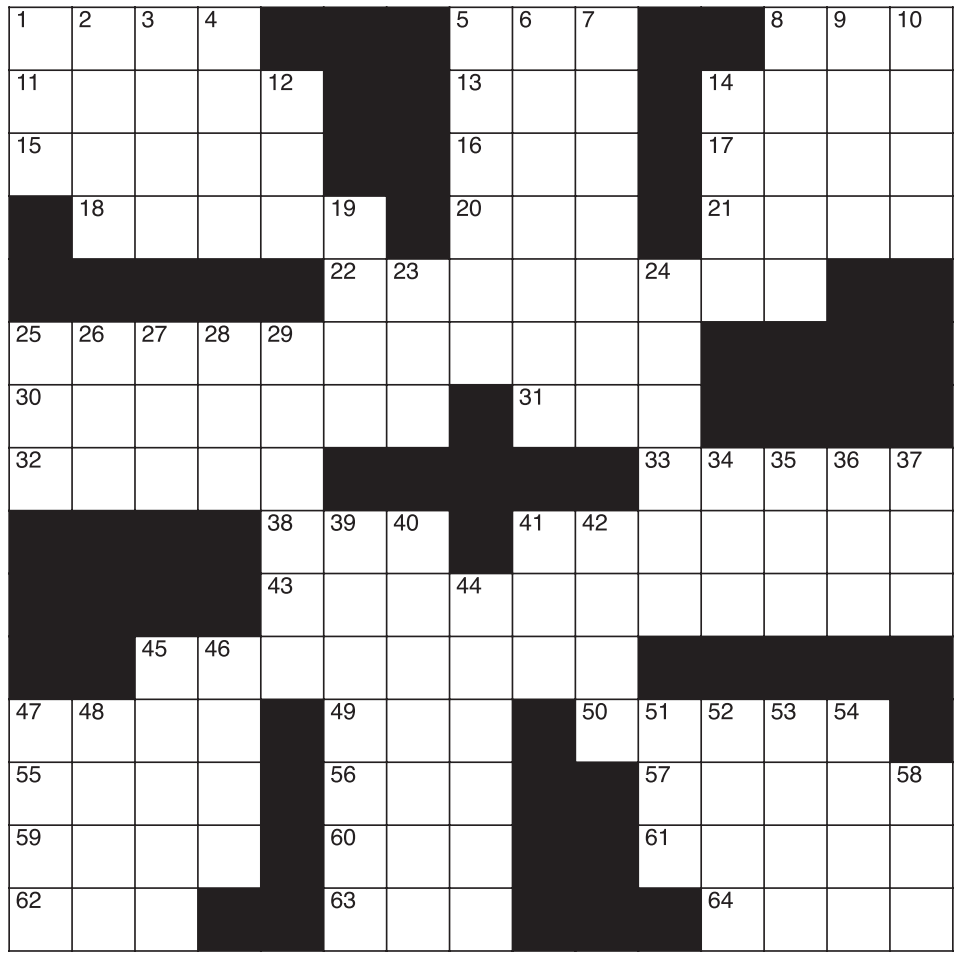
Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 18



CLUES ACROSS
1. Computer manufacturer
5. Noted space station
8. Kurt Russell film "Captain"
11. Automaton
13. Everyone has one
14. Incline from the vertical
15. Fights
16. Dunn & Bradstreet (abbr.)
17. Finishes off
18. Places to store things
20. Dutch painter Gerard __
21. Smaller quantity
22. There's a North, South and Central of these
25. In an early way
30. More spacious
31. Short-term memory
32. One who possesses
33. Sesame
38. Forbid
41. A way to explain
43. Not around
45. Evoke or suggest
47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
49. Dekameter
50. Fencing sword
55. "Luther" actor Idris
56. Affirmative (slang)
57. Afflicted
59. One point north of northeast
60. Born of
61. Arabic name
62. Hong Kong food stall: __ pai dong
63. Not the start
64. Post

CLUES DOWN
1. Creative expression
2. Fiber from the outer husk of a coconut
3. City in ancient Syria
4. College army
5. More disturbed
6. Pays no attention to
7. Restored
8. Competitions
9. Lyric poems
10. Famed American lawman
12. Expression of disappointment
14. Scars
19. Satisfy
23. Central European river
24. Brass instrument
25. One who gets paid to perform
26. Propel with oars
27. Long period of time
28. Woman (French)
29. Type of plane
34. Pitching stat
35. Pointed end of a pen
36. Pro sports league
37. Body part
39. Inoffensive
40. Yellowish cotton cloth
41. Feline
42. Does not tell the truth
44. Set out to attract
45. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
46. Abba __, Israeli politician
47. Repair
48. Genus of flowering plants
51. Tributary of the High Rhine
52. Prejudice
53. C. European river
54. Restrain
58. Father

Answers on page 18

Turtle Guardians urge for caution in nesting season

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

Above, signs saying that they have sprayed pesticides along the shoulder of county roads have raised concerns for the Turtle Guardians as it is prime nesting season in Haliburton County. /Submitted

It is estimated that a snapping turtle needs over 50 years in order to replace itself. There are safe and respectful ways to assist this creatures with moving across the road. /submitted

"All of June is very busy," said Leora Berman, founder and COO of The Land Between Charity and Turtle Guardians.

Berman says that our interview is the first chance she has had all day to sit down and eat something. A rare moment of stillness for her this month.

June is the peak nesting season for turtles in Ontario. Female turtles leave their aquatic living situation seeking loose, sandy soil. Unfortunately, the shoulders of the roads in Haliburton County suit that description.

Berman estimates that the Turtle Guardians receive 100 calls to their hotline per day during turtle nesting season. Whether it is sightings of turtles on the road, people's properties, or turtles in need of rescuing, their phone is ringing off the hook.

Berman estimates that Ontario has lost around 60 per cent of its turtle population. Longtime residents know that there used to be big turtles, some even becoming icons like the well-known snapper, Grace. Nowadays, the gargantuan turtles are few and far between. The biggest threat to the turtle population in the county is road strikes. Nearly 400 Blanding's Turtles alone are killed by road strikes each year. The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada has estimated that the population of the Blanding's turtle will plummet by 50 per cent within three generations of offspring.

The Turtle Guardians have been hard at work responding to reports of nesting turtles in the county. Their team diligently collects eggs from nests throughout the area. With a special permit, they bring the eggs back to their facility and incubate them, where they will hatch and then be released back into the environment.

"We need to rebalance the scales of nest survival," said Berman.

Berman estimates that their team will handle 9000 eggs this season. Eggs typically take around 80 to 90 days to hatch in an incubator.

Nests around roads are easier for raccoons and foxes to find. As they are already attracted towards civilization, it is not difficult to sniff out the eggs along the shoulder of the road. Eggs have an 80 per cent chance of getting eaten by a predator within 24 hours of being laid. After the eggs hatch, Berman says that the hatchlings are like chicken nuggets to predators and can fall prey to animals like birds, otters, and minks.

It is estimated that a snapping turtle needs over 50 years in order to replace itself.

When the turtles are older, they have low reproductive rates, but lack pressure from predators. Living a long life would allow them to regenerate their numbers. But with various human-caused issues, turtle population numbers are rapidly declining.

Berman urges anyone stopping to help a turtle cross the road, to make sure that it is actually wanting to get across.

"Be sure it is actually trying to cross the road," said Berman. "Nesting turtles often walk onto the road and then make a u-turn back towards their nest."

Turtles are not good at walking backwards and need to do a loop to get where they are wanting to go.

The Turtle Guardians also have a rapport with the City of Kawartha Lakes, Peterborough County, and Haliburton County for concerns relating to turtles. Turtle nests are reported by the roads departments regularly.

"These turtles are beautiful and intelligent," said Berman.

Turtles can remember where they are born and each turtle has a unique personality, says Berman.

"There are a lot of misconceptions and folk tales about turtles," said Berman. "Ours can't do much damage."

Berman notes that even the biggest snapping turtle's bite strength is not stronger than a human's. The beak might be able to break through skin, but can't snap through a broom handle like some people have suggested.

"Unless that broom is really old, dried out, and pretty thin," said Berman, with a laugh.

Turtles are very important to both the local ecosystem and the fishing industry, says Berman. Turtles keep fish populations in check, spread seeds that grow as shelter, and scavenge refuse in the water. Sure, sometimes a turtle may eat a duckling or a minnow, but turtles can go without eating for weeks at a time after a meal.

"I have not met one kid that isn't infatuated by turtles," said Berman.

The Turtle Guardians are still working with the ministry to design appropriate eco passages for roads in Ontario. While some have been implemented across the county, there is always more work to be done.

For the public, the Turtle Guardians ask that you respect the speed of the road, check for turtles, and assist them when possible. If you come across an injured turtle, they ask you to call Ontario's turtle hospital at 705-741-5000. They also now have an app that can be downloaded through their website turtleguardians.com. The Turtle Guardians also have a text hotline that can be contacted for support at 705-854-2888.

The recent changes to the Ontario government with Bill 5 has Berman quite nervous about the future of wetlands and the lives of endangered species like turtles in Haliburton County.

"Everyone will be affected," said Berman. "You have to be a fool if you don't think that this isn't a powergrab by a crony and his posse. He is overtaking the free market and using our species at risk as a scape goat."

On June 18, Berman contacted the newspaper to inform us that Haliburton County has sprayed the roads with herbicide, including the shoulder that turtles are currently nesting in.

As of publishing, the private contractor who allegedly sprayed the pesticide has not replied to our request for comment.

"If it contains glyphosate we are going to have a much bigger problem," said Berman.

In the United States, Monsanto is currently facing tens of thousands of lawsuits claiming that Round Up, primarily made out of glyphosate, causes cancer. When glyphosate gets on your skin, it can cause severe chemical burns. Research is conflicted, with some saying it is non-carcinogenic, whereas others have determined it to be 'probably carcinogenic'.

Plans under way for Norland Summer Festival

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

Sherry Wessell, a volunteer with the Norland Summer Festival Committee remembers her first visit to the Norland Summer Festival. Her daughter was three years old.

For the 35 years since then, she has been to nearly every festival.

Wessell became involved with the fair committee after the COVID-19 pandemic. Her bread and butter is the horse pull. Her father, Ingram, was known for his dedication to the local horse pulls, starting his pulling career in the 1970s.

He owned the Belgian horses that lived in the iconic big red barn along Highway 35.

"My dream was, when my Dad passed away, to dedicate the horse pull after him," said Wessell.

This year will be the third Annual Ingram Wessell Horse Pull in his memory.

Wessell estimates that around 30 teams come out annually for the horse pull. Visitors travel as far as Quebec to participate in the pull.

"We have so many people that come out," said Wessell. "And so many businesses that donate prizes for the horse pull."

Wessell and the other core group of volunteers on the festival committee say they try to make the festival bigger and better every year.

This year's Summer Festival will include a chili cook off and baking contest by the local restaurants, bouncy castles, a plethora of vendors, horseshoe tournament, beer garden, lucky loonie auction, and a spaghetti dinner put on by the Sub and Sandwich Factory.

Wessell estimated that around 1,500 visitors come to the Summer Festival each year.

A construction zone will be set up for kids to get up close and personal with construction vehicles and ask construction crew questions.

Another popular event for both young participants and visitors is the Pet Show. Wessell says that kids bring all kinds of critters to the show. There should be a variety of horses, cows, dogs, reptiles, birds, and more. The award categories for the pet show include the Most Unique, Best Costume, Best Trick, and Voter's Choice.

The Festival will also be taking entries for their poster contest. This year's theme for the poster is "Life on the Farm." Posters can be any size and use any medium. Participants can range from Junior Kindergarten to adults. Posters can be dropped off with a committee member or at the festival before 3 p.m. on July 12.

On Sunday, all of the churches in Norland are planning on having a special church service in collaboration with the Summer Festival.

Admission and parking for the Summer Festival is entirely by donation. Funds raised will be going directly back into the coffers for making the next iteration of the festival.

The Norland Summer Festival takes place from July 12 to 13 and will be located at Ward Memorial Park.

"Our community support is amazing," said Wessell. "We couldn't do it without the community."

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1.5 acres
3bd+den, 3-bath bungalow with many recents upgrades: ensuite, finished basement, wet bar, & more. This home is move-in ready with modern comforts, just 15 minutes from Haliburton or Minden and close to trails.
$600,000
Ritchie Falls Rd., Minden
3
1
2
Private 3-bed, 1-bath home with sunroom, year-round guest cabin, heated workshop, detached garage & saltwater pool on 1.2 well treed acres just minutes from Carnarvon, Minden, and Haliburton. Flexible living in cottage country!
$550,000
Kushog Lake Road
3
1
170ft
Private, fully furnished 3-bed, 1-bath cottage with 170' south-facing frontage. Year-round access, sunroom, f/a furnace, level lot, & primarily undeveloped views across the lake. Minutes to Gooderham & Haliburton.
$625,000
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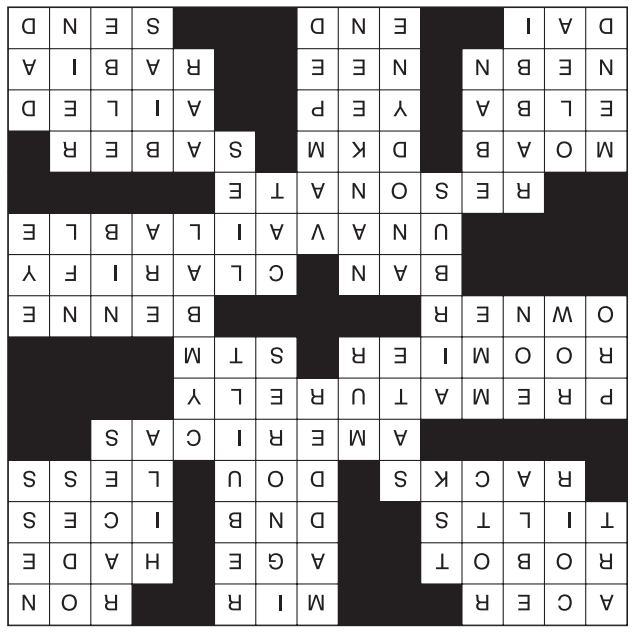


SUDOKU SOLUTION

8	4	9	2	7	1	6	3	5
2	3	1	9	5	6	7	8	4
6	7	5	8	4	3	1	2	9
7	6	2	1	8	5	4	9	3
5	8	4	3	6	9	2	7	1
9	1	3	7	2	4	8	5	6
4	2	6	5	3	8	9	1	7
1	5	8	6	9	7	3	4	2
3	9	7	4	1	2	5	6	8

GET IT online
www.haliburtonecho.ca
www.mindentimes.ca

Join the party at the Dysart Library

Haliburton County Public Library is inviting you to attend the family-friendly Browning Reptiles Summer Kick Off Party at the Dysart library in Haliburton Village on Friday, June 27 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The free library-led event is your chance to:

- Get up close with amazing creatures from Browning Reptiles, including snakes, lizards, tortoises and tarantulas;
- Sign up for the TD Summer Reading Club, and pick up a free reading kit, stickers, Book Bingo card and Reading Passport;
- Cool off with free freezies;
- Sing your favourite tunes using the library's new karaoke machine; and
- Enter a draw to win prizes!

No registration required. All ages are welcome.

Special thanks to the Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library for generously funding this event, and Browning Reptiles for providing accurate, science-based information while introducing their reptile, amphibian and invertebrate friends!

About Haliburton County Public Library

With eight library branches across the County, Haliburton County Public Library (HCPL) offers free public access to information, resources, programs, spaces, and services to meet the lifelong learning and literacy needs of residents and visitors. HCPL plays a critical role in maintaining strong and healthy communities, for example, by offering free WiFi, public computers and printers, as well as educational and literacy programs for people of all ages, backgrounds, abilities, and interests. HCPL's extensive collection includes both physical and digital materials.

About Friends of Haliburton County Public Library

The Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library (The Friends) is a group of volunteers that advocates for all eight library branches across Haliburton County. The Friends host book sales and other events to raise funds to assist with developing library programs, collections, and services. Since their founding in 2003, the Friends have raised tens of thousands of dollars for unique book collections, tech devices and learning kits for all ages, special computers for children, and much more.

About Browning Reptiles

Browning Reptiles is more than reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates - it is about connection, curiosity, and making science unforgettable. Browning Reptiles is committed to providing accurate, science-based information in every school presentation, classroom visit, and public event through live animal experiences. In addition, Browning Reptiles is a haven for reptile rescues and surrenders.

Summer kicks off with cultural events in Algonquin Highlands

It's going to be a busy weekend in Algonquin Highlands on June 28 and 29, with a series of cultural events kicking off the summer season!

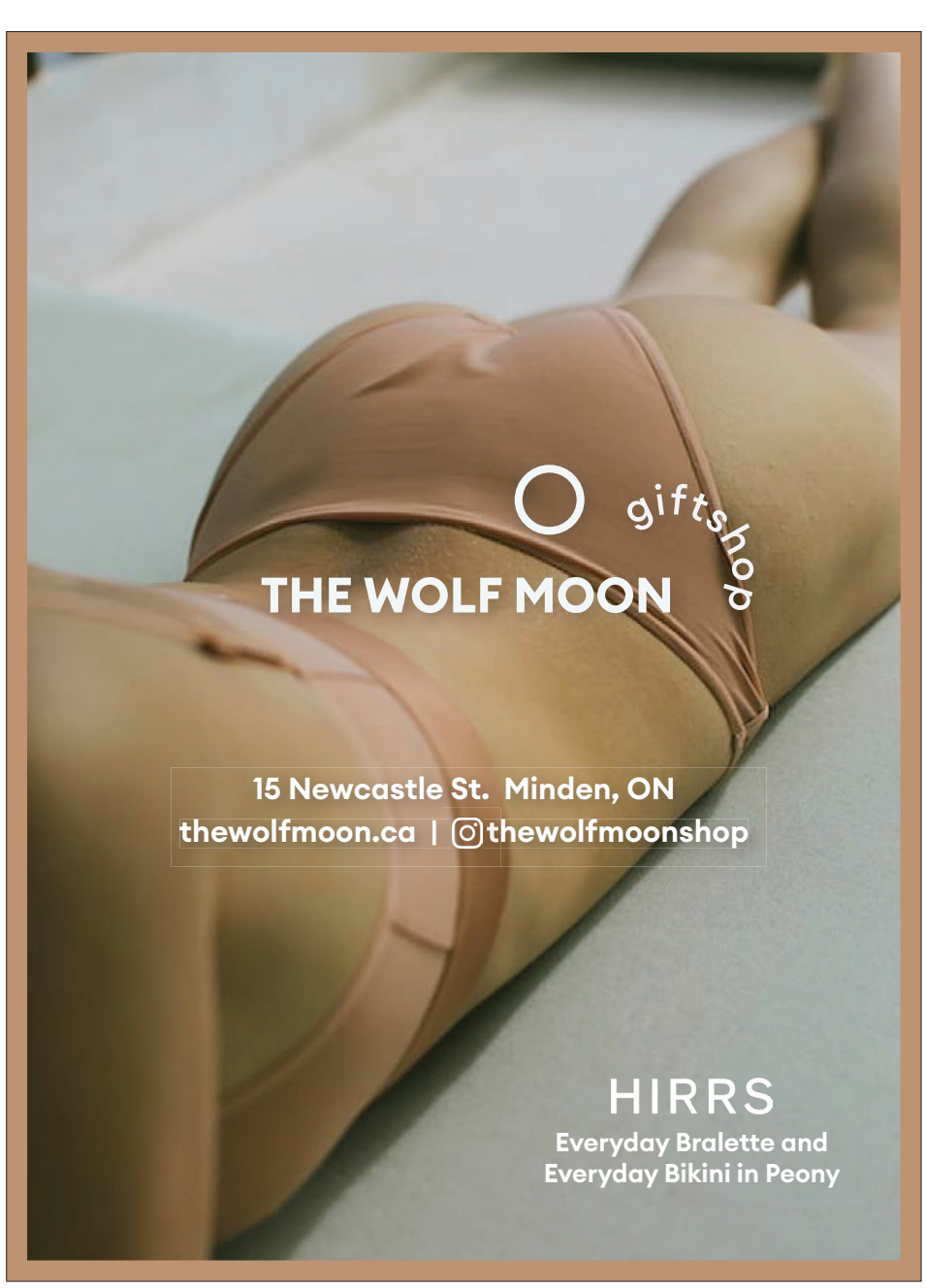
On Saturday, June 28, Dorset Heritage Day takes place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This is the Dorset Heritage Museum's flagship event of the year, happening on the museum grounds at 1040 Main Street. You can check out Uncle Norm's Tractors, antique automobiles, visit the 35th Battalion, and preserve the memories with a trip to the photo booth! Local vendors will have tables set up, and there will be live children's music at 1 p.m. Don't forget to check out the exhibits inside the museum as well. Dorset Heritage Day is a rain or shine event.

Saturday, June 28 also marks the opening day the Stanhope Museum the 2025 summer season. The museum, located at 1123 North Shore Road, will be open from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and thereafter will be open Wednesdays through Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. until Labour Day weekend. Come and see the 2025 exhibits and don't forget to pick up a jar of the museum's signature citron marmalade while supplies last! Made from citron melons grown in the museum's Heritage Gardens, it usually goes quickly!

On Sunday, June 29, an Arts & Crafts Show and Sale takes place at the Dorset Parkette along Highway 35. There will be a wide array of artists and artisans selling everything from paintings to jewelry to pottery to driftwood and sea-glass art. The show runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

On Tuesday, July 1, celebrate Canada Day at the Oxtongue Lake Community Centre from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be food, games, a silent auction, an appearance by Amanda's Walk-Through Zoo and much more!

Submitted



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YARD/GARAGE SALES

Garage Sale. Saturday, June 28 9 am-3 pm. Rain Date: Sunday, June 29 9 am-3 pm. **1034 Dusty Lane (4 min East of Carnarvon, off Highway 118)** Priced to go!! Leather couch, chairs, bunk bed, yarn, games, books, DVD's, 1-6 year old toys and lots more!!

Our Annual GIGANTICO Garage Sale is here for another year! Location: **1003 Moonrise Bay Lane (off of Hospitality Road) South Lake**, Minden Date: Friday, June 27 - 8am-4pm. Saturday, June 28 - 8am-4pm. Sunday, June 29 - 8am-Noon. Follow our road signs! RAIN OR SHINE

Multi Yard Sales – Duck Lake Rd., #1612, 1970, 2254. Sat., June 28 & Sun., June 29 8 a.m. to 3p.m. Comic Books, Bikes, Dog Crates, Rain Barrel, Fine Arts and Prints, Tools, Triton MK3 Workcentre, Electric Chainsaw, household goods, Hummel & Lladro figurines, TV Sound Bar, Golf- Clubs, Bags & Balls, T Shirts, metal shelving, etc. Lots to sell at 3 locations!

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Housing Corporation (HCHC)
Board of Directors Opportunity

HCHC is seeking an individual to serve as a Director on the Corporation's Board. If you are a community minded individual and believe in the value of affordable housing, please consider submitting a resume to join our caring compliment. The average commitment is approximately 3-5 hours per month depending on your personal level of involvement.

HCHC is particularly interested in hearing from people with knowledge experience and / or interest in any of the following areas:

- Operations / Maintenance
- Finance / Legal
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If you would like to consider applying for this volunteer position we would like to hear from you by July 31, 2025.

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OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

Howard George Brumwell

May 18, 1938 ~ June 22, 2025

Passed away peacefully at Port Perry Place on Sunday June 22, 2025 at the age of 87 years. Cherished husband of the late Mary (nee Hooper). Loved and remembered by his son Paul and daughter Karen Jenkins (Alan). Cherished Poppa of Mary Park (Joel), Bryan Jenkins (Jenny), Alex Jenkins and the late Andrew Jenkins. Proud Great Poppa of Leah Park and Oliver Jenkins. Survived by his sister Darlene Hallsey and predeceased by his brother Dean, Neal and Dale.

A Memorial Service will be held at Low & Low Funeral Home, 23, Main Street South, Uxbridge on Saturday June 28, 2025 at 2:00 PM. Visitation from 1:00 – 2:00 PM. Reception and celebration of Howard's life will follow at the Royal Canadian Legion, Br. 170, 109 Franklin Street, Uxbridge. In typical Howard fashion, please dress casually. As expressions of sympathy, donations to the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated by the family. Friends are invited to express condolences or make donations by visiting www.lowandlow.ca.

Louise Marie Curry

Resident of Haliburton

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Louise Marie Curry, peacefully surrounded by family at Extendicare Haliburton on the 19th day of June 2025 in her 87th year. Beloved wife of Lloyd Curry. Loving Mother of Tim (Bev), Tom (Kim), Dan (Coleen), and Dean (Terri). Fondly remembered by her grandchildren, Amanda, Jason, Shawna, Scott, Jodi, and Kelsey/ Also remembered by her great-grandchildren, Riley, Wells, James, Ashtyn, and Lane.

Louise was a long-time volunteer for the Haliburton Hospital Auxiliary. Louise loved cooking, going to bingo, playing cards, and most of all, spending time with her family. A special thank you to all the wonderful staff at the Extendicare for their care and support for Louise.

Private Arrangements

Funeral arrangements are private; a service for Louise's family will take place at a later date. As an expression of sympathy, donations in Louise's memory can be made to the Extendicare Proud Pioneers. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME**, 13523 Hwy. #118 Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 (705) 457-9209.

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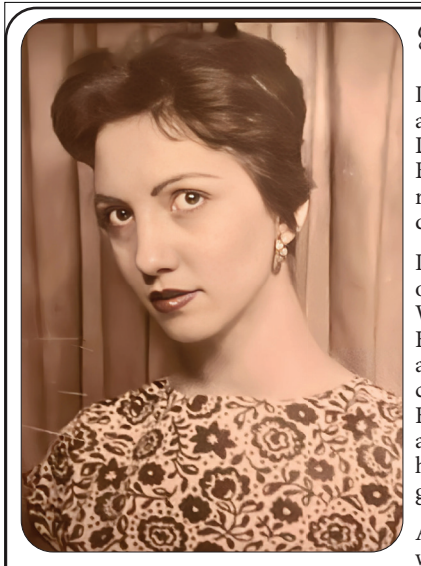

Irene Houtby (nee Gough)

Irene Houtby (nee Gough), 83, passed away peacefully at home on June 17, 2025, surrounded by her son, David, her son-in-law, Doug, and their beloved pets. Born on November 30, 1941, in Thorold, she led a remarkable life, radiating compassion, grace, and a deep love for her family.

Irene was a pillar of her community and a woman of deep faith. Her involvement with the Catholic Women's League at St. Anthony's Church in Haliburton showcased her commitment to service and her unwavering dedication to helping others. Her charitable spirit extended to her time at Haliburton Highlands Hospital, where she volunteered with grace and selflessness. She understood that kindness could heal in ways that medicine alone could not, and her gentle presence made a significant difference.

A vibrant social network of friends surrounded Irene, whether on the curling rink, golf course or a friendly get-together - these moments, filled with laughter and camaraderie, were her way of nurturing the connections that mattered most to her. Irene was perfectly imperfect, embracing life's challenges with remarkable strength and grace. She taught us that it's okay to be flawed and that our imperfections make us human and relatable. Her authenticity drew people to her, and her ability to find joy in the small things reminded us all to cherish every moment.

Irene is predeceased by her husband, Fred, and her daughter, Mary. She is survived by her sons, David (Doug) and Larry (Irene), as well as her grandchildren, Tom (Chelsey), Joe (Megan), Rob, Taylor (Dave), and her great-grandchildren, June and Kinnon. Her love for her family was a guiding light in her life, and she cherished every moment spent with them.

Visitation & Funeral Mass

Friends and family are invited to call at the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME**, 13523 Hwy. #118 Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 (705) 457-9209 on Tuesday, June 24, 2025 for a Visitation from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm (Noon). A Funeral Mass will follow at **ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA ROMAN CATHOLIC MISSION CHURCH**, 27 Victoria St, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0, beginning at 12:00 pm (noon). Irene's burial will take place immediately following the service at St. Anthony of Padua Roman Catholic Cemetery, 460 Pine Avenue, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0. As an expression of sympathy, donations in Irene's memory can be made to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation.

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Walk on

Participants in this year's Walk for Water raised over $10,000 for over-seas well development.

See page 3

Recognition

The members of the HHSS Student Activity Council have been recognized for their leadership in the school.

See page 12

New director

Haliburton County's incoming Director of Education, Brad Saunders, talks about his past and the future of

See Second Section

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Ministry approves school expansion

by Jay Kerr-Wilson

The Ministry of Education has announced that the school board will receive a grant to alleviate overcrowding at the Archie Stouffer Elementary School.

The board announced last week that it has received an allocation of $2.1 million for the construction of additional classroom space. The ministry will contribute $750,000 to construction costs and the board will pay the rest.

Board chairman Cheryl Murdoch said the announcement of the allocation was unexpected. "It's great news and a real surprise," she said in an interview on Friday. "I could hardly believe it."

Murdoch said the addititon to the Minden school will alleviate the overcrowded conditions, allowing the board to move students out of the old IGA store on Main Street and eliminate the use of portables.

The board's submission to the province proposed a separate school on the Archie Stouffer property to accommodate nine classrooms from Kindergarten to Grade Three and a gymnasium. The estimated cost of the project was $3 million.

"We are going to have to have some

(more on page 4)

Prescribed burn consumes 100 acres

by Jay Kerr-Wilson

More than 100 acres of forest in Stanhope Township were consumed by fire last Friday, as part of the Ministry of Natural Resources' preparations to plant 60,000 white pines.

In what is called a "prescribed burn" ministry staff set fire to three parcels of land, ranging in size from 10 acres to 80 acres. The blaze, which began at about 2 p.m., sent a thick column of smoke into the sky where it was quickly dispersed.

Peter Hynard, the Unit Forester with the ministry's Minden office, said the burn duplicated the conditions of a natural forest fire and prepared the area for re-forestation with white pine next spring.

"The white pine is a slow-starting tree," said Hynard. "It will make a fast start in the burn and become strong competition before other species return."

The burn sites are located about three kilometres south of Ox Narrows and one kilometre west of Kushog Lake. MNR fire crews will continue to monitor the area until the next heavy rain ensures there are no more hot spots.

Preparation of the chosen sites involved clear-cutting, "tramping" with a bulldozer to ensure all material was on the ground and a herbicide application to retard any further regrowth before ignition.

The fires were started by an MNR helicopter which dropped flaming petroleum jelly on to the burn sites, starting at the centre and flying in circles towards the edge.

forested with white pine but unregulated logging decimated the species, says Hynard.

The white pine does not do well when it is forced to compete with other types of trees, and needs fire to perpetuate itself.

Once a stand of white pine matures and begins to die, it will be replaced by maple and balsalm unless there is a fire.

Before it was clear cut, the burned areas containted a mixture of poplar, white birch, maple, balsam and some white pine. Once the stands begin to grow back, Hynard says the same mix of trees will occur, but the white pine will be more numerous and better able to withstand the competition.

The burn itself was carried out with military precision and planning.

A base camp was set up on Kushog Lake Road with a communications centre, a weather station and a helipad. The ministry crews had to wait for suitable weather before the burn could be attempted.

Jack Gravel, a weather technician from Huntsville, kept track of temperature, humidity and wind speed and briefed fire boss Tom Russell on present conditions and forecasts for the next 24 hours.

By early Friday afternoon, the conditions were just about ideal, according to Gravel, with light surface winds and an unstable air mass which would disperse the smoke quickly.

Although he could have collected the

(more on page 11)

Bringing home the gold

High school students Melanie Duchene and John Vuksic were chosen as Girl and Boy Athlete of the Year at last Thursday's athletic banquet.

HHSS athletes honoured

by Susan Grober

The athletes of Haliburton Highlands Secondary School had their time in the spotlight at an awards banquet held last Tuesday at the Haliburton Legion.

Team seals, awards and trophies were presented by coaches and students Kelly Strong and David Kinsella.

Melanie Duchene was chosen as Girl Athlete of the Year. Duchene has played field hockey, track and field, volleyball, and badminton. Her hard work and willingness to improve earned her eight gold seals, two silver seals, and two Most Valuable Player awards.

John Vuksic, whose athletic interests include hockey, football and badminton, was chosen as Boy Athlete of the Year. Vuksic was described as having both incredible talent and modesty.

It was certainly an outstanding season for many of the Redmen teams.

(more on page 15)

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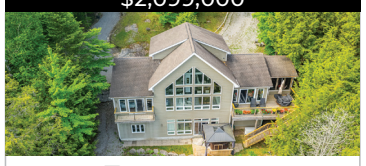

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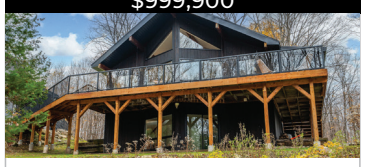

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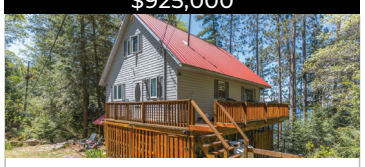

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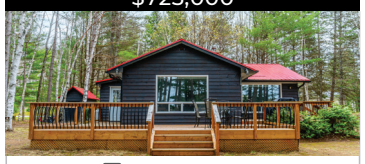
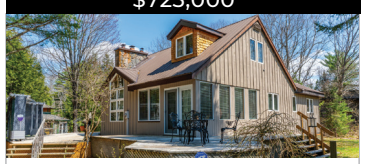
WILBERMERE LAKE
$725,000



3 X BED · 1 X BATH · MLS# X12138474

KENNISIS RIVER
$725,000

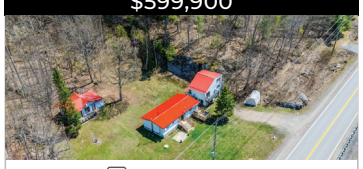


3 X BED · 1 X BATH · MLS# X12137708

EAGLE LAKE AREA
$659,900

2 X BED · 1 X BATH · MLS# X12095585

KUSHOG LAKE (RD BETWEEN)
$599,900



4 X BED · 2 X BATH · MLS# X12140930

CRANBERRY LAKE
$599,000
NEW PRICE

2 X BED · 1 X BATH · MLS# X12101365

WILBERFORCE
$499,000
NEW PRICE

3 X BED · 2 X BATH · MLS# X12093164

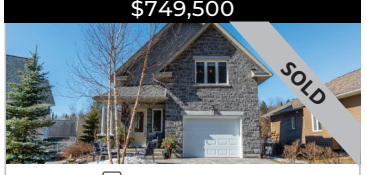
OAKVIEW CO-LIVING,
$349,000 PER UNIT

UNIT 1 MLS #X11976347
UNIT 4 MLS #X11976354

CHANDLER POINT
$67,000
FRACTIONAL OWNERSHIP

3 X BED · 2 X BATH · MLS# X11884689

SILVER BEACH
$749,500

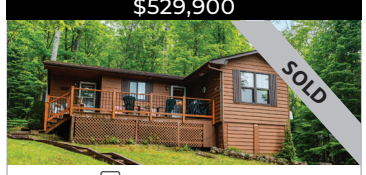


3 X BED · 4 X BATH · MLS# X12071612

HALIBURTON LAKE
$890,000

3 X BED · 2 X BATH · MLS# X12074153

LAKE LORRAINE
$529,900



3 X BED · 1 X BATH · MLS# X12210389

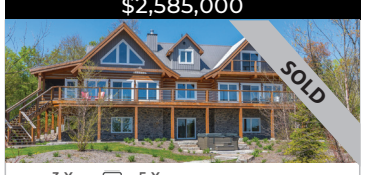
KOSHLONG LAKE
$899,000

3 X BED · 1 X BATH · MLS# X12166694

HALIBURTON
$699,000

3 X BED · 2 X BATH · MLS# X 12182080

REDSTONE LAKE
$2,585,000



3 X BED · 5 X BATH · MLS# X12170193

HEART LAKE
$699,900

3 X BED · 1 X BATH · MLS# X12179568

HALIBURTON
$568,000

2 X BED · 1 X BATH · MLS# X12175116

12 MILE LAKE
$489,000

3 X BED · 1 X BATH · MLS# X12155241

LITTLE KENNISIS
$550,000

3 X BED · 1 X BATH · MLS# X12219556

VACANT LAND FOR SALE

Haliburton Lake Road
NEW PRICE
MLS X12198773
$199,900
14.53 Acres

Glamorgan Road
NEW PRICE
Gooderham Lake
$219,000
6.82 Acres

Highlands East
MLS X12209117
$129,500
2.11 Acres

Adeline Trail
MLS X12220289
$445,000
18.4Acres

Grace River Road
MINER LAKE
SOLD
$135,900
2.56 Acres

Basshaunt Lake Road
MLS X10437016
$99,000
2.19 Acres
*Vendor Takeback Available

Wenona Lake Road
DEEDED ACCESS
MLS X11953943
$95,000
0.42 Acres

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